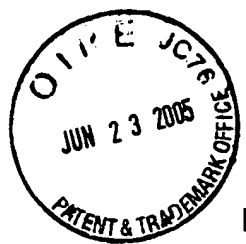


EFK!



PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 8971.0005

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
Steven Y. ZHOU ) Group Art Unit: 2151  
Application No.: 10/712,396 ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Filed: November 14, 2003 )  
For: SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR ) Confirmation No.: 6846  
ADDRESS SPACING IN A )  
FIREWALL CLUSTER )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**STATUS INQUIRY**

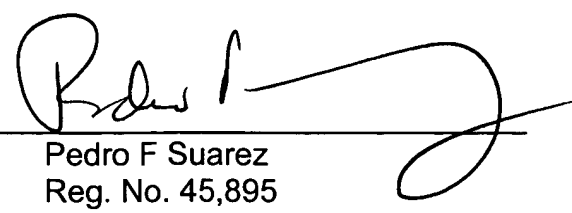
According to our records, the above-identified application was filed in the U.S.  
Patent and Trademark Office on November 14, 2003.

In view of these circumstances, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests  
that the Office advise him of the status of this application as soon as possible in order to  
determine whether further action by the Applicant is required at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: June 23, 2005

By:   
Pedro F Suarez  
Reg. No. 45,895